

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:40

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015

Natural Calamities

Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various parts of the country have been affected by natural calamities including heatwave, heavy rains, cloud burst, floods, earthquakes, landslides and cyclonic storms in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such incidents reported along with the number of persons died/injured, damage to property, cattle/animals killed separately during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the total funds allocated/released for relief operations and providing compensation to the affected people along with the steps taken to increase the financial aid during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has identified the areas that are prone to natural calamities in the country and if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) whether any contingent and long term plans have been drawn to minimize the impact of such calamities and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to declare the flood and also land erosion in Assam as natural calamity?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*40 FOR 01.12.2015

(a)&(b): Yes Madam. The details of the losses due to natural disasters reported by the State Governments/ Union Territories during the last 3 years and current year are at Annexure-I.

(c): The concerned State Governments undertake relief operations in the wake of natural disasters from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at their disposal. When the available resources under the SDRF are inadequate, an additional assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) by following the laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team. The financial assistance is towards relief and not for compensation of loss as suffered.

Details of allocation and releases from SDRF and NDRF during the last three years and current year are given in Annexure-II.

(d)&(e): India, due to its unique geo-climatic and socio-economic conditions, has been vulnerable in varying degrees, to various disasters like floods, droughts, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches and forest fire. Earthquake prone / seismic zones have been identified and mapped under the auspices of Bureau of Indian Standard [IS 1983 (part I); 2002]. The country is grouped into four seismic zones viz; zone-II, III, IV and V. Of these, zone V is seismically the most quake prone region, while zone-II is the least. The entire areas of Himalayan region from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh lies either in seismic zone IV or V. This region is prone to earthquakes and related natural calamities. The hilly regions are mainly vulnerable to the heavy rainfall leading to flash floods/ floods, landslides and avalanches. 12% land is prone to flood and river erosion; out of 7,516 km. Coast line, 5,700 km is prone to cyclones and tsunamis; 68% of the cultivable land is vulnerable to drought.

The issue of inclusion of any disaster in the list of notified natural disasters has traditionally been considered by the successive Finance Commissions set up under the clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution from time-to-time. The 14th Finance Commission has already listed out the natural calamities viz. cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, floods, tsunami,

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hailstorm, avalanches, cloud burst, landslides, pest attack and cold wave/ frost. Erosion is not included/ covered in the centrally notified list of natural disasters eligible for relief under the SDRF/ NDRF. However, considering the need for flexibility in regard to state-specific disasters, the 14th Finance Commission has recommended that expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the notified list of disasters, can be met from SDRF within the limit of 10% of the annual fund allocation of the SDRF subject to fulfillment of certain conditions and norms.

The Government of India has approved the central sponsored scheme of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) Phase-I and Phase-II for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal. The project is expected to benefit coastal people and to help protection of coastal land in these States.

The Schemes for flood & erosion control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments concerned. The role of the Central Government is of a technical, catalytic and promotional nature. As part of its endeavour to assist the States in the management of floods, the Central Government supports the Plan Scheme 'Flood Management Programme', which is implemented by the State Water Resources Departments. It seeks to improve the existing disaster management practices and to mitigate, control and help reduction of the adverse impact of floods and control erosion in the country including in the State of Assam.
